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RESOLUTIONS

UNANIMOUSLY adopted at a Meeting of the Citizens of Montreal, on Monday, 27th November, 1848.

Resolved—1°. That this Meeting, fully concurring in the Resolutions, with reference to the British Navigation Laws, adopted at a public meeting held in this city on the 13th June last, and, deeming the question of the highest importance to the interest of Canada, think it advisable to repeat, in substance, and confirm, what was then resolved upon, viz:—That inasmuch as the Mother Country has seen fit to abandon her Protective Policy, and has, in consequence, deprived this Colony of many advantages formerly enjoyed in the markets of the United Kingdom;—advantages the loss of which we deeply regret and which cannot be fully compensated, even by a change of the Navigation Laws, as they regard Canada; and inasmuch as the restrictions imposed upon us, by those Laws, and the partial closing of the St. Lawrence against Foreign vessels, prove, in their effects, most detrimental to the commerce, and to the essential interests of the Province:—It is therefore the opinion of this Meeting that the people of this Colony have a just claim upon the Mother Country, to be relieved from those onerous restrictions.

Resoived—2°. That this Meeting, from further experience acquired in the season just closed, see the most powerful reasons to reiterate what was urged by their fellow citizens at the public meeting already referred to, viz:—That there is the strongest ground for apprehension, should the British Navigation Laws (so far as they affect this Province) continue in force after the protection to Canadian Grain and Flour in Great Britain is withdrawn, that the bulk of the produce, both of the Western States and of Canada West, will be sent to ports of the United States for shipment, notwithstanding the superior advantages in economy of transport, which the internal communications of Canada possess, but which are fully counterbalanced by the greater cheapness of ocean freight in the United States, and that the Navigation Laws will thus be rendered inoperative as regards their main object, that of protection to British shipping, whilst they will exercise a most baneful influence over that portion of our revenue derived from Public Works, and over the interests of every individual connected with the Trade and Commerce of the Country.

Resolved—3°. That this Meeting have duly considered the Bill "To amend the laws in force for the encouragement of British Shipping and Navigation, prepared and brought into the House of Commons by Mr. Bernal, Mr. Labouchère, and Lord John Russell, and ordered to be printed on the 16th August last,"—and although they desire to refrain from any expression of opinion with regard to the merits of the Bill, so far as they affect the general interests of the Empire, yet conceiving that it fully meets the wants and just claims of the Province, inasmuch as it proposes to leave us free to employ Foreign or British vessels at our option, in our commerce with the United Kingdom and other nations, and to concede to the Provincial Legislature the power to regulate our Coasting Trade and Inland Navigation, as it may deem most for the general good—hail the measure in this restricted sense with satisfaction; and trust that the urgency of our case will be duly appreciated by Her Majesty's Government and the Imperial Parliament—this Meeting being convinced that the provisions of the Bill, so far as they relate to Canada, are indispensable for the restoration of prosperity to this Colony.

Resolved—4°. That a humble petition, founded on the foregoing Resolutions, be prepared for transmission to Her Majesty the Queen, and Imperial Parliament; and that His Excellency the Governor General be moved to transmit the same, and to support its prayer; also, that Petitions be prepared and presented to both Houses of the Provincial Legislature at the next Session, praying them to support the objects of this Meeting, and with suitable Addresses to the Imperial Authorities.

Resolved—5°. That a Committee be appointed, with full power to carry out the intentions of the Meeting, as expressed in the foregoing Resolutions; and further that the said Committee be requested, and hereby fully empowered, to open a correspondence which our fellow-subjects, in other parts of the Province, for the purpose of inviting them to co-operate with us, in promoting the objects which we have in view, and that the following gentlemen compose that Committee, with power to add to their number:—

Hon. George Moffatt, C. S. Cherrier, Hon. A. N. Morin, John Young, John Glass, P. Beaubien, M. D., Jacob DeWitt, M. P. P., L. H. Holton, J. G. Mackenzie, D. Torrance, Hon. P. McGill, Alfred LaRocque, W. B. Cumming, H. H. Whitney, H. Starnes, W. Murray, James Scott, Edward Maitland, John M. Tobin, B. H. Lemoine, J. A. Gagnon, G. E. Cartier, M. P. P., Jean Bruneau, David Kinnear, P. Jodoin, A. Prevost, Louis Marchand, Damase Masson, A. Cuvillier, I. Gould, C. S. Ross, T. B. Anderson, D. L. MacPherson, W. Molson, Chas. Bockus, James Law, H. L. Routh, W. Lunn, John Greenshields, C. Geddes, Wm. Muir, Sidney Jones, Benjamin Brewster, Charles Wilson, Wm. Workman, Thomas Peck, James Ferrier, Wm. Carter, Hew Ramsay, John Glennon, David Davidson, Alexander Simpson.

MONTREAL, 15 *December*, 1848.

SIR,

We have the honor to communicate to you herewith the Resolutions adopted at a Public Meeting of the Inhabitants of this City, duly convened and held on the 27th ulto., to take into consideration the subject of the Repeal or Modification of the Navigation Laws of the United Kingdom, in so far as they relate to Canada, and the opening of the River St. Lawrence to the Vessels of all nations; and to mention that Petitions to the Queen and the Two Houses of the Imperial Parliament, embodying the three first Resolutions, are now receiving signatures, and will be immediately placed in the hands of His Excellency the Governor General to be sent to England.

These concessions on the part of the Mother Country having, in the opinion of the Meeting, become indispensable to meet the change made in the Commercial Policy of the Empire, and to restore the financial and commercial prosperity of the Province, it is of great importance that energy and unanimity should characterize the present appeal to the Metropolitan Authorities, in order to counteract the impression, attempted to be made in England, that the subject is viewed with indifference in the Colony.

In the hope that your sentiments will coincide with those of the Meeting, we respectfully solicit, on behalf of the Committee named in the Resolutions, your earnest and immediate co-operation and support, and that of the [redacted] over which you preside.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

Chairman

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